

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13, and 18 remain in the application with claims 1 and 13 having been amended hereby and claims 5, 6, and 17 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. New dependent claims 19 and 20 have been added.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 5, 13, and 18 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Amrine et al. in view of Morikawa et al.

Amrine et al. relates to a display having an anode and cathode plates separated by a mechanical support that includes a getter assembly. The support is sandwiched between the anode and cathode plates and has a pair of frit lands formed at an outer peripheral portion of the support frame. Amrine et al. is an example of the previously proposed systems in which the entire assembly must be clamped prior to the affixing of the elements in a final assembly.

The present invention solves this problem by providing the so-called fixing block means that are formed of two individual metal blocks attached to the respective glass plates. The two metal fixing blocks at each location have finally finished surfaces on their outer sides so that when they are brought into contact, the spacing between the two glass plates is accurately set. At that time the two metal blocks can be welded one to another using laser welding or ultrasonic wave welding. Thereafter the entire assembly is fired so as to cause the low-melting point glass forming the adhering member to melt and seal around the frame member.

Although Morikawa et al. does employ metal in a sealed ceramic package this metal is used as a soldering or welding material and does not constitute metal blocks. As clearly disclosed and shown in Morikawa et al. the three metal layers are plated onto the ceramic substrate and then the outermost two gold layers are adhered to each other by a solder joint layer formed of a gold-tin alloy. Of course, since this is a hermetically sealed package, this metal layer must run around the entire periphery of the space being sealed. See Fig. 4, for example. Thus, there is no suggestion of any block elements in Morikawa et al., and the only reason that a block is apparently shown is that the structure of Figs. 1 and 2 are shown in cross section, thus, showing what appears to be a block but which is only an elevational cross section of the sealing ring of Figs. 3 and 4. Furthermore, the cross section of Fig. 2 is incorrectly shown since the upper rear edge of the base is not shown.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended hereby to emphasize the features of the fixing block means being comprised of the first and second metal fixing blocks that have finely finished surfaces thereon, so that when the blocks are brought into contact the space between the anode and cathode plates is precisely set, as described in the present specification at page 8, for example.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the provision of the fixing block means in the present invention is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone

or in combination.


The cancellation of claims 6 and 17 renders moot the rejection thereof under 35 USC 103.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a sealing vessel and display element in which the anode and cathode plates are temporarily affixed prior to the firing of the assembly by means of a first and second metal fixing blocks that are finely finished, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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